

UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

Natural Soda, Inc.
3200 Rio Blanco County Road 31
Rifle, CO 81650

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to solicit public comment on a proposal by the Region 8 Ground Water Program office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue an Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit that authorizes the underground injection of fluid via Class III Solution Mining Well in Rio Blanco County, CO:

Permit No. CO32169-00000
Natural Soda, Inc.
Rio Blanco County, CO

BACKGROUND

Natural Soda, Inc. (NSI) has submitted an application for a Class III Solution Mining Area Permit to mine the Saline Zone in the Parachute Creek Member of the Green River Formation which initially includes one injection well. The proposed well is within their existing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sodium leases where solution mining activities have been authorized under their existing UIC Class III Permit CO30358-00000, within the bedded nahcolite in the L-5 stratigraphic zone of the Green River Formation. The singly proposed injection well is sited on an existing pad of their present operations and will be utilizing the existing infrastructure and will operate under similar maximum pressures and temperatures. The proposed permit differs from the authorized CO30358-00000 in well construction and the injection zone. The injection zone is deeper than their existing permit allows.

A Draft Permit has been prepared in accordance with provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as amended (42 USC et seq) and other lawful standards and regulations. The EPA has made a preliminary determination that all underground sources of drinking water will be protected. This Permit is issued for the life of the well(s) or project unless modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated under 40 CFR §144.39 or §144.40. This Permit once issued, will authorize the construction and operation of a new injection well or wells. Operation of the well(s) will be governed by the requirements and conditions specified in the Permit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The requirements and conditions of the Draft Permit are tentative, and are open to comment from any interested party. Persons wishing to comment upon or object to any aspect of proposal are invited to submit comments, IN WRITING, within 30 days of the Date of Publication found below:

Wendy Cheung
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ground Water Program, 8P-W-GW
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129
Telephone: 1-800-227-8917 ext. 312-6242

The Administrative Record, including the application, the Draft Permit and Statement of Basis prepared by the EPA, and public comments received, is available for public inspection at the above location(s) weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Draft Permit and Statement of Basis will also be available on the Region 8 UIC webpage: <http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/uic>

PUBLIC HEARING

Within the thirty (30) day period, any interested person may request a public hearing as provided by 40 CFR §124.12. A request for a hearing must be made IN WRITING to the above address and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised at the hearing. A public hearing will be held only if significant interest is shown.

FINAL PERMIT DECISION

All comments received within the thirty (30) day period will be considered in the Final decision. The decision may be to: issue, modify, or deny the Permit. The Final decision shall become effective thirty (30) days after issuance unless no commenters requested changes to the Draft Permit, in which case the Permit shall become effective immediately upon issuance.

APPEALS

Within thirty (30) days after a Final decision has been issued, any person who filed comments on the Draft decision or who participated in a public hearing may petition the Administrator to review the final decision. Any person who failed to file comments or failed to participate in the public hearing may petition for administrative review only to the extent of the changes from the Draft to the Final Permit decision. Commenters are referred to 40 CFR §124.15 through §124.20 for procedural requirements of the appeal process.

April 14, 2011

Date of Publication